swere their slacknesse, and be censured at a Marshals Court.

37 All other faults, disorders and offences that are not mentioned in these Articles shalbe punished according to the generall Customes and Lawes of Warres, and therefore I command all men to looke to their charge: and him that hath no charge to looke to his owne carriage, and to keepe himselfe within bands of dueti: for the discipline of Warre shall be strictly kept, and the Lawes thereof severely executed.

swere their slacknesse, and be censured at a Marshals Court.

37 All other faults, disorders and offences that are not mentioned in these Articles shalbe punished according to the generall Customes and Lawes of Warres, and therefore I command all men to looke to their charge: and him that hath no charge to looke to his owne carriage, and to keepe himselfe within bands of dueti: for the discipline of Warre shall be strictly kept, and the Lawes thereof severely executed.

A COPIE OF A CERTAINE LETTER WRITTEN BY A person of reputation, to a Prelate of Brabant, being at Brussels.

9
(10)

The 25. of Februarie. 1599.

Imprinted at London by Iohn Wolfe, and are to be sold at his shop in Paules head Alley ouer against the Exchange. 1599.

A COPIE OF A CERTAINE LETTER WRITTEN BY A person of reputation, to a Prelate of Brabant, being at Brussels.

The 25. of Februarie. 1599.

1507:15

Imprinted at London by Iohn Wolfe, and are to be solde at his shop in Popes-head Alley, neere to the Exchange. 1599.

To the Reader.

LOuing Reader, the Coppie of this Letter, beeing come to my hands, with the Annotations vppon the gifte or yeelding vp of the Netherlandes, to the Infanta of Spaine, which in my opinion, is not to be smothered in obscuritie, I thought good to put the same in Print, to the ende that all louers of the Netherlandish rights and priuileges, may the better vnderstand (what by the vertuous Catholiques themselues is censured of these Spanish dealings.

A copie of a certaine letter, written by a person of reputation, to a prelate of Brabant, being at Brussels.

The 25. of Februarie 1599.

HOnorable, noble, high learned, wise, prudent, and most discreete Lorde. I haue receiued your letters, dated in Brussels the xvi. of Nouember last, with the inclosed copie of the gift of the deceased king of Spaine, to the noble princesse *Isabella Clara Eugenia*, his eldest daughter of the Netherlands, and the Countrie of Burgundie, in respect of the marriage betweene the aboue named illustrious princesse, and the illustrious Prince *Albertus*, Archeduke of *Austria*, his cosin, with your request, that I should sincerely write vnto you my opinion thereof: to wit, whether according to my iudgement and seeling, the same be a meete meanes to quenche the Netherlandish warres, and to reduce them to a quiet and peaceable estate: wherevpon I haue at diuers times considered, and notwithstanding that I haue been in great suspence, in vvhat sorte and what imported, to giue my iudgement and aduise in so weighty a matter: yet in respect of the reue-

rence

reuerence bowe to your honor, I haue been forced to resolue & to accomplish your wil vpõ a sure trust, that this my aduice should remaine betweene vs, and not to be vsed to the hinderance and scandall of others. I can not hide from your honor, but that vpon this matter in the last moneth, diuers aduises haue bin sent me, as well out of England, France, & Germany, as out of some quarters of the Netherlands, vvherof some are of this opinion, and other of other, that the deceased king considering his great age, and desiring to leaue his sonne, the new king a peaceable estate, should haue faithfully and in good meaning proceeded herein: other, that it is vvithout any appearance that the Spanish counsell should at any time find good in the meaning to seuer the Netherlands from Spaine, as hauing more commodities requisite to the greatnesse of a Prince, then all the realmes of Spaine, & that therfore the said dealings did onlie tend and stretche to attaine vnto a thing that cõ passe, vvhich by armes or other means can hardly be done. Besides that, a certaine person of no smal credit vvith the great, writeth, in confirmation of this last opinion, to knovv certainly, that by the high borne Princesse & Prince, counter letters should haue been giuen. And also that for assurance of their promises ther-

of it is agreed, that foure of the cheefe places of the Netherlands should remaine in the possession of the Spaniards. But without, to build vpon any foundation of these deuises, I will onely by manner of a glose, coate what I finde to be considerable, and finallie to set downe my seeling, to vnderstand the true ground thereof, hoping that your honour the better will consider in what sort ought to be dealed for the common quietnesse & tranquillitie, vnion and welfare of the Netherlands, and to bring and maintaine them in their olde right splender, respect and prosperitie, beseeching your honor, according to your wisdom and bountifull discretion, to vnderstand and interpret the whole to the best: and the Lord God Almightie preserue your honourable, noble, high learned, wise, prouident, and most discreet Lordship, in a long and prosperous gouernement. Written the 2. of Februarie. 1599.

Your Honors most humble seruant.

Superscription.

To the honorable, noble, high learned, wise, prouident and most discreet Lords, Abbot of Saint &c.

Phillip Rex. To all present and to come which shall see or heare these letters: greeting.

Whereas wee haue found to be most behoue-full not onely to our Prouinces of the Low-countries, but also, vnto (a) all Christendome in generall, (b) no longer to delay the marriage of our deare and eldest daughter the Infanta, Isabell Clara Eugenia, being mooued thereunto, as well for the conseruation of our house, as diuers other good respects: as also, for the great good affection, which we beare vnto our beloued Brother, Nephewe, and Cosine, the Archduke Albert, (at this present) Lieftenant, Gouernour, and Captaine generall, for vs in our Netherlands and Burgondie: we haue cast our eyes on him, and chusing him for the future husband of our saide Eldest Daughter, the whole, as well with the consent and pleasure of our holy father the Pope, who condiscendeth, and graunteth the dispensations thereunto belonging, as also with the agreement and consent, of the most high, excellent, and puissant Prince, our beloued Brother, Nephew, and Cosin, Rodolph, the second of that name, Emperour of the Romains,

a I wish that this Preface were shorter, and with words more pleasing to the Hollanders, & touching that which the K of Spaine saieth of the great desire and care hee hath for all Christendō, I doubt that our aduersarie will labour but too much by the former and present actes, to shewe the contrarie.

(b) The reasons of no longer to deferre or delay the marriage (beeing now well neere come to that age, that there is little appearance of hauing children, falleth also not well, nor yet the Popes holinesse dispensation, to giue the high aboue named Infanta, to his Brother, Nephewe, or Cosin, cannot be very pleasing.

togi-

togither with our welbeloued sister the Empres his mother,
which being considered, and to the end that our said daughter might bee furnished with reasonable meanes, such as are required for her great calling and merits. Also to the end and make known, c the loue which we haue and doo beare, vnto our saide Netherlands and Burgundie, we haue resolued (to the aduancement of the said marriage) to (d) giue and transport all those said countries, vnto our said Daughter, and all thereunto belonging, in the manner which shall be specified here vnder. The whole, with the content and good will, of our deare and welbeloued good sonne, the Prince Phillip, our onely sonne and heire: according to the aduertisement, which (by vs and our said sonne) hath beene giuen vnto the principall Lordes and Knights of our order, Gouernours and Estates of our said Netherlands, which are in our obeysance, togither with those of our countrie of Burgundie. All the which haue witnessed and declared by their answere, the ioy and contentment which they receiued at our so kinde resolution, which they know and confesse to bee for the rest and tranquillitie of our said Netherlands, and that it is the true and right course to attaine to a good (e) and a firme peace, and

(c) I feare that against this singular and especial loue will be obiected the deaths of the knights of the fleece, many Noblemen and Gentlemen and Inhabitants of the Netherlãds, all by thousãds which haue by violent means, and against the rights and priuiledges of the countries.

(d) I foresee, That it will be saide that this griefe doth not agree with the generall and particular rights of the Netherlands, in such sort to giue them in Spaine, but that the one ought first to haue beene lawfully assembled, the States general and particular of the Prouinces of the Netherlands, to consider duly all the members, if the same ought for the good of the countries to bee permitted, or no: also I feare that it will be assuredly supposed and beleeued, that by this gift the Netherlands shall seeme not by vsurpation, but *quasi* by their own consent, to be made subiect to the Spanish counsels disposition. A matter at times highly detested by the Netherlanders, and this opinion, shall apparantly be confirmed by sundrie conditions and restraints, contained in this gift, many whereof seeme to assubiect the Netherlands to Spaine, the which I beleeue will not be so vnderstood nor taken to be either honourable or lawfull to the Netherlanders, not only by the States and Communaltie of the aduersarie, nor yet by theirs of *Brabant*, *Flaunders*, *Haynolt*, *Artoyes*, and other countries.

(e) I wish moreouer, that this designe of the kings to see the Netherlands

in a ſure peace and tranquilitie had been ſoberly rehearſed ſince that the preſent and former proceedinges will bee obiected againſt the ſame, out of which this deſires can hardly be iudged, eſpecially being that fire and ſword, not onely in the Netherlands, but alſo vpon the neutrall neighbors is yet daily as much vſed as euer before. I will not rehearſe the great roades and other diſorders committed in the Netherlands on that ſide in this yeare, nor the neuer-to-fore heard mutenies and vnworthie proceedings vpon the caſtle of *Antwerpe*, to the charge and againſt the ſame good Cittie and Cittizens of the Spaniards, alſo the dealings with the Citties of the Empire, *Aecken* and *Weſell*, the horrible tyrannie of the land of *Collen*, *Cleue*, *Berge*, *VVeſtphalie*, *Munſter*, *Marcke*, and againſt Earles and other perſons, onely I conſider vpon the aunſwere of the Admirant *D'arragon*, who being ſhewed and tolde of the Archbiſhops promiſes, ſaith, that *Gods ſeruice and the kings, permit him not to his faith*, which will bee eſteemed farre woorſe then the former, to wit, *That no faith needs be held to Heretickes*: and I am ſorrie that with ſo ſmall conſideration, by the abouenamed Lord Admirant, is ſpoken and written to the Empires members, that he onely deſireth to haue the Romiſh religion, by them maintained and excerciſed, with the depoſing as well with the *Lutherian* as the *Caluian* doctrine, fearing that ſame wil breed a great ſcandal to the Kings, Electors, Princes, and other not vſing the Romiſh religion.

and to be deliuered from ſuch a troubleſome warre: which quiet and tranquilitie, we haue alwaies wiſhed vnto them. (f) And conſidering that (which vnto all is moſt manifeſt) the greateſt felicitie which may happen to a countrie, to bee gouerned by the ſight and preſence of their naturall Prince and Lord, God is witneſſe of the trouble and care which we haue had, becauſe we haue not bene able in that ſort to doo it perſonally, as (truly) wee well wiſhed, if other great & important affaires of our Realme of Spaine, had not forced and conſtrained vs to make a continuall reſidence therein, without mouing any thing from thence, as alſo at this preſent they conſtraine vs. And

(f) It beeing true, that the greateſt felicitie which maye happen to a countrie, is to haue a good & wiſe Prince, and to be gouerned of him

in perſon, vndoubtedly by the aduerſe partie herevpon will be alleaged, that the deceaſed king deſired not the felicitie of the Netherlandes, as not vouchſafed, in the ſpace of fortie yeares once to ſee them, but chuſe rather by the Duke of *Alba*, and other his Tyrants, without landiſh meane of warre, enemy-like to inuade the ſame, to holde the Netherlands as a new conqueſted land, to put to death the chiefe Lords, Nobles, and principall Cittizens louers of the lands, rights and priuiledges, or to banniſh them out of the countrie, and

to confiscate their goods, to vse the rest as slaues to their tyrannie, to builde castles in their chiefe citties, to fill them with Spanish souldiers, to set vp and erect new and neuer to fore heard counsels, against the wils of the States of the land, to appoynt and raise such contributions as they thought good, vnder the pretence of treating of peace, to set abroach newe treasons, and reuenge in great powers; and in briefe, to reduce the Nethetlandes to such a poynt, that therein they might plant *Sedum belli*, thereby with the countries opportunitie, and good commodities of the riuers, hauens, and sea-holds, the multitude of sea-faring men and Shippes, togither with the aboundance of all prouision needfull to a mightie armie by water and land, to further the insatiable Spanish ambition, in the incorporating and establishing laws to all Realmes, Countries, and Commonweales, (as they say) with the proceeding against *Germanie*, *England*, *France*, *Ireland*, and other Realmes and countries manifestly shew. That the king hath been this fortie yeare so busied with matters of such importance, that he hath not beene able once to see the Netherlands, (being such worthie, faire, and important countries, which by his Lord and Father, Grandfather, and other his predecessors, haue bene helde in so high esteeme) will by many but passe for a sleight excuse, especially it being answered that his Lord and father the Emperour *Charles*, only to set order in a cause of the Cittie of *Gaunt*, not without perill to his person, came out of *Spaine* through *France* into the Netherlands.

(g) If the highnes of the birth of ỹ illustrious Infanta, or her great merits oght to giue her the Netherlands: wherfore then (might be said), Haue they not beene furthered vnto the states, being lawfully assembled, pure, cleare and without any conditions, fidei commissions, or restrainctions, for all the conditions and restraints, will be adiudged to be trap and deceites, thereby (according to the doctrine of the doctors of Tyrannie) to bring that to passe vnder the vaile of a Foxes skinne, which could not be done with Lyons claws.

And although the age of our said sonne, seeme more fitte to trauell then doth ours, notwithstanding it hath beene the pleasure of the Almightie, to giue so many other kingdomes and Countries, for the good gouernment of which there will neuer want offaires of great importance, for the which also his pretence shall here be needful. We haue then found most conuenient to take this resolution, to the ende that our said Low countries be not left in the forepassed inconuenience, togither with the reason that we haue to appoynt the portion of our said daughter the Infanta according to her merits, and the (g) greatnesse of her birth.

As also perticularly, that next vnto the said Prince and the

(vnto

(vnto whom God confirme with long yeares and prosperitie to his seruice) our said eldest daughter is the first and neerest heire vnto the said Countries, and therefore, by vertue of the will and pleasure of our said Sonne, she may from this time be constituted in the same. The more because wee haue chose these meanes, hoping that thereby our said Netherlands may returne, to their auncient flower, rest, and prosperitie, which heretofore they haue had.

Wherefore we make knowne, That desiring at this present to put in execution, that whereon we haue so ripely considered, and in respect of the voluntarie consent, which our said Sonne the Prince hath so liberally giuen thereunto, after hee had vnderstood, the (b) submission wherewith our said countries, did confirme our will and intention, wee haue resolued and decreed, to cede and transport to our said Daughter the Infanta, and to the aduancement of the said marriage, all our said Prouinces of the Netherlands & Burgundie, in the forme, manner, and conditions here vnder expressed.

(b) It is wonder that herein they haue vsed the woorde submission since that vndoubtedly it will bee sayed not to bee straunge, though the states of the Prouinces sything and panting vnder the Spanish tyrannie, seeing the Cities enuironed, their countries suppressed with Spaniards, and other outlandish souldiers, and the whole and entire gouernment of countries and cities, compounded according to the Spanish wil: of many mischiefs, were fain to chuse the least, and that they therfore theron haue bin compelled to submit & yeald themselues to the Spanish Councels will and pleasure, and to accept the propounded conditions, how vnreasonable burthensome and vnworthie soeuer they seemd, but it will neuer bee beleeued, that neither the States nor the Communaltie, which by the staes are represented, beeing in libertie, will keepe those forced conditions.

The conditions wherevpon theſe *anſwers are written, are to be found*

in the Booke before Printed, intituled,
The tranſportation of the Lowe Countries. &c.

Vpon the firſt condition.

BY this firſt and many other articles, the intent of the Spaniſh king is but too cleare, and the Spaniſh counſaile manifeſt, to wit, that by all meanes they will not onely haue the Netherlands ioyned to Spaine, but eſpecially, that by this gift and tranſport, as with the conſent of the lands, they ſhall be ſubiected to the Spaniſh gouernment, in ſtead that vntill now they haue deſired to vſurpe the ſame by vniuſt and falſe titles.

Vpon the third condition.

I haue conſidered vpon the contents of this third article, to wit, that the Archeduke dying without leauing childe or children, procreated by the high borne Infanta: in ſuch caſe this gift ſhall be nothing, and of no worth, and that ſhe inſtead of theſe Netherlands, ſhall haue her lawfull portion. Hereupon will be ſaid, that it is a fit meanes to holde the Netherlands combuſtion, being [illegible] no bodie ſhould be able to make the legitimate portion of all the realmes and countries poſſeſſed by the King of Spaine, aſwell in Europe, as the Eaſt and Weſt Indies; that this cauſeth bringeth with it the afore ſaid Spaniſh enterpriſe, to get the Netherlands in their clawes.

Vpon the fourth condition.

That word, returne to the king of Spaine, ſet in this fourth Article, manifeſteth likewiſe the ſelfeſame intent.

Vpon the fift condition.

By this fift Article appeareth vnreplicably, that at leaſt the Princes of the Netherlands, ſhould for euer remaine ſubiects to the king of Spaine and the Spaniſh counſaile, a matter altogether vnworthy not only for the Netherlands, but alſo for

the

the Princes thereof, and truely, the vertue of the states of the Netherlands prouinces of aboue certaine 100. yeares past was so great, that such indignitie durst not haue beene offered them.

Vpon the sixt condition.

By this sixt Article, is giuen full power to the king of Spaine and the Spanish counsaile, that when as the Netherlands should by succession fall in a womans hands, to drawe the same to Spaine againe, by marriage with the King or Prince of Spaine, or by hinderance thereof, the Spaniards turning ouer the leafe, and insteede that Spaine is now by marriage come to the hands of the Princes of the Netherlands, they will alwayes make the Netherlands fall into the king of Spaine, thereby with a better title of the same to rule them to their pleasure.

Vpon the seuenth condition.

The conditions contained in this seuenth Article, in more manifest sorte explaineth the intent of the Spaniard, willing that the Princes of the Netherlands, neither their sonnes nor daughters shall marry, without the aduise and licence from the king of Spaine: In what plainer and manifester sorte might we set the Princes and the Netherlands (against the right of all peoples and nations) in the Spaniards protection or warship.

Vpon the eight condition.

In this eight Article, I haue considered the arrogancie of the Spaniards, in forbidding the inhabitants of the Netherlands, the traffick and nauigation of the East and West Indies, a matter neuer to fore heard of, and against the right of all nations. How much differeth this from the furtherance of the welfare, prosperitie, and auncient flourish of the Netherlands? The greater part of the East and West Indies, is vnder the king of Spaine. What right (I pray you) haue the Spaniards to forbid the Netherlanders, the traffick & nauigation in those parts? What reason hath a Prince of the Netherlands (who is bound to his power to further his subiects, liuinde and welfare) to propose such vnmeete and vn-

reaso-

reasonable conditions against himselfe and his subiects, and to take vpon him to set penalties, that the Netherlands in such case should be confiscated and deuolued to the Spaniards: but what title, foundation, or colour, haue the Spaniards got such right in the Netherlands? Truly I am of opinion that many thousands, aswell Prelates, Lords, Nobles, as vertuous citizens in Brabant, Flaunders, & other countries (as now in sighing vnder the Spaniard) would rather dye for the continuance of liberties then for their successors, to accept such dishonorable and vnlawfull conditions, and it is not apparant that any of the other Prouinces would once thinke vpon such intollerable and dishonest propositions.

Vpon the ninth condition.

It will be said, that by this ninth article, the right of the States of the land, is contaminated & deminished, vnto whom during the nonage of their Prince or Princesse, the gouernement of them and the lands (according to their rights) doth belong. Which rights may not be acquitted and laide aside, according to the Spanish counsels appetite.

Vpon the tenth condition.

Vpon this tenth article I am to say nothing as touching the Catholick faith, but I doubt that this precise condition of taking such an oath as that set sheweth, & the penaltie of dispossession of the proprietie of the lands, shalbe thought to tend but little to a peace and quietnes of the Netherlands (for those of Holland & Zealand, & other vnited Prouinces, will esteeme the said condition such, as thereby is meant, that it is not desired y any time they should be conioyned with the other lands, which notwithstanding (in my opinion) is the onely waye, to bring Netherland out of these broiles of the Spanish tranie, & in her olde flourish.

Vpon the oath.

For yet vpon the forme of this Oath, am I to say any thing: but I feare, that the Hollanders will expound the same, that not onely the Prince bindeth himselfe and his successors to the Romish religion, without considering that the faith is a gift of God, but also that he must maintaine his subiects therein, and thereunto will bring foorth the Spanish Inquisition.

Vpon

Vpon the 12. condition.

Upon this 12. article I say (according to my iudgement) that no sure peace, loue, nor correspondence, can be had betwéen the Spaniards and the Princes of the Netherlands, nor no hope thereof, as long while as the said Spaniards, séek (in the least) to vsurpe any thing ouer the Netherlanders, which not withstanding by this guift séemeth to be all their pretence.

Vpon the 13. and last.

I am & haue bene offended in the highest degrée, understanding by this 13. article, that these Netherlands should be held as a feoffe or rerefeoffe to Spaine, and do not think that any Netherlander (not ouer Hispanolized) would endeat good, for that the Princes of the Netherlands, which for certaine hundred néeres past, haue always been souerain, & absolute Princes, should henceforwards be conuaisable to the king of Spaine, which wil neuer finde passage in any true vertuous Netherlanders heart, but vndoubtedly wil be a cause that the Hollanders & their associates, will with these vndecent & vnreasonable conditions, more iustifie their causes before all the world, then euer tofore, especially with this oportunity by the kings decease, whose decease hath discharged euery one of all bonds, & their bonds may not be renued, according to rights, priuileges, and customes of the countrye, without their consent, which they will neuer yéelde to such conditions.

By this my briefe annotation, your honor may vnderstād, what (in my opinion) vpon each point may apparantly be said by the catholikes themselues, I haue therein roundly and in good meaning executed your honors charge, vpon hope that my writing shall not be shewed to any, & vpon the same hope, I cannot hide from your honor, (that in my minde) this conditioned gift will not proue the right means to reduce the Netherlād in rest, peace, & prosperitie, but would estéeme it more conuenient, that in this oportunitie, & by the kings decease, ẏ States of all the Netherlands should take armes against the Spaniard & his adherents, therby to compell the said Spaniards, & other strangers to depart the Netherlands, leauing by prouision, euery one in his owne in such order touching the religion as otherwise, as they are: to the end that the Spaniards & strangers being driuen out of the said lands, & the same land, being so reduced in their rights, freedomes, & securitie,

that

that as then the Generall States of all the Netherlands, might assemble, and by good meanes take aduise and resolue, vpon the points which should tend to a right and true welfare, a during and assured peace, rest and vnion of the Netherlands, which would be a good and conuenient meanes, not onely for the seruice of the Netherlands, but also for the high aboue named Infanta, and the illustrious Archeduke her lord and husband, which otherwise, by this conditioned guifte would holde them in a perpetuall slauerie and seruitude of the Spaniards. I know that many honest persons of all qualities amongst you, and also amongst the aduersaries of the Spaniards vnto which these meanes would be hartely pleasing, and trust that if the same were in earnest and effectually by your honors and others, taken in hand,

the Almightie God would yeelde his blessing thereto.

FINIS.

A PROCLAMATION OF THE LORDS THE GENERALL States, of the vnited Prouinces, whereby the Spaniards and all their goods are declared to be lawfull prize: As also containing a stricte defence or restraint of sending any goods, wares, or Merchandizes to the Spaniards or their adherents, enemies to the Netherlandes.

Faithfully translated out of the Dutch coppy Printed at S. Grauen Haghe by Aelbercht Heyndrickson, Printer to the Generall States.

Imprinted at London by Iohn Wolfe, and are to be solde at his shop in Popes-head Alley, neere the Exchange. 1599.